

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A tapping device, comprising:

a tap holder provided in a shank body which can be freely attached to a rotating mold indexing device rotatably provided at a punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction, the tap holder having a tap at its lower end and being provided so as to be movable only in the vertical direction and urged upwards; and

a downward movement ~~transmitting means~~ transmitter for transmitting downward motion of a ram provided at the punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction to the tap holder, the downward movement ~~transmitting means~~ transmitter being at an upper part of the shank body.

4. (Original) A tapping device according to claim 3, wherein a workpiece brace is rotatably provided at a lower end of the shank body.

5. (Currently Amended) A tapping device according to claim 4, wherein an oil channel for guiding oil supplied from the ram to the tap is provided in the downward movement ~~transmitting means~~ transmitter and the tap holder.

6. (Currently Amended) A tapping device according to claim 5, wherein an elastic member which can freely transmit downward motion of the ram is provided at the downward

movement-~~transmitting-means~~ transmitter to lower the tap holder against upward energizing force of the tap holder.

7. (Currently Amended) A tapping device, comprising:

a tap holder provided in a shank body which can be freely attached to a rotating mold indexing device rotatably provided at a punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction, the tap holder having a tap at its lower end and being provided so as to be movable only in the vertical direction and urged upwards; and

a downward movement-~~transmitting-means~~ transmitter for transmitting downward motion of a ram provided at the punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction to the tap holder; wherein

the downward movement-~~transmitting-means~~ transmitter has a pressing-~~means~~ device for pressing the tap holder downwards by fluid pressure supplied from the ram and a shock absorbing-~~means~~ absorber.

8. (Original) A tapping device according to claim 7, wherein a workpiece brace is rotatably provided at a lower end of the shank body.

9. (Currently Amended) A tapping device according to claim 8, wherein an oil channel for guiding oil supplied from the ram to the tap is provided in the downward movement ~~transmitting-means~~ transmitter and the tap holder.

10. (Currently Amended) A tapping device according to claim 9, wherein an elastic member which can freely transmit downward motion of the ram is provided at the downward movement-~~transmitting-means~~ transmitter to lower the tap holder against upward energizing force of the tap holder.

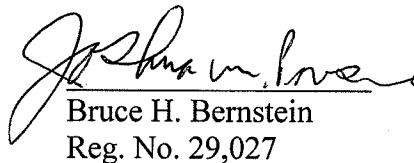
Claims 11-15 (Cancelled)

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement, non-elected claims 1-2 and 11-15 will have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Elected claims 3-10 will also have been amended to ensure that features recited therein are not interpreted as means-plus-function or steps-of/steps-for recitations. Cancelled claims 1-2 and 11-15 (similarly amended to ensure that features recited therein are not interpreted as means-plus-function or steps-of/steps-for recitations) may be presented in a divisional application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Shigeyoshi KOUNO et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Joshua M. Povsner
Reg. #42,086

October 15, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191